



January 8, 1982

RELIGIOUS SERVICE, Friday, January 8, 1982, 8:30 p.m.
RABBI MORTON HOFFMAN
"ANTI-ISRAEL ANTI-SEMITISM"
 TORAH SERVICE, Saturday, January 9th, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Beth Am Commentator

5950 North Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33156 • Telephone: 667-6667

Al Vorspan, Vice-President of U.A.H.C. Speaks at Beth Am January 29th

Iris Franco, President of the South Florida Federation of the U.A.H.C., is happy to announce that the first speaker in our Friday night lecture series will be Al Vorspan, Vice-President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Mr. Vorspan will speak from our pulpit on Friday night, January 29th. He is coming back to Beth Am by popular demand. No speaker who has lectured here previously has been more favorably received.

Mr. Vorspan has been Chairman of the Social Action Commission of the U.A.H.C. for many years and is a well known national figure in inter-group social action conferences. He is the author of *Jewish Values and Social Crisis* and most recently (with Balfour Brickner) of *Searching the Prophets for Values and Great Jewish Debates and Dilemmas*. He has written for *Time Magazine* and *The Saturday Review*.

Mr. Vorspan speaks not only seriously. His humor is part of his national reputation. In this area, he has published such delightful books as *My Rabbi Doesn't Make House Calls*.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES START AT 8:15 P.M. AS OF FEBRUARY 12TH

We have had many requests to start our services a little bit earlier, as of February 12, 1982, religious services will start at 8:15 p.m. This is fifteen minutes earlier than usual. The regular first Friday of the month Family Worship Service will continue to start at 7:30 p.m.

ANNUAL MENORAH CONTEST WINNERS

Grand Prize: Leigh & Alison Stieglitz

PRE-SCHOOL - 3RD GRADE

- 1st Prize Ari Greenbaum
- 2nd Prize..... Jonathan Goldberger
- 2nd Prize..... Michael & Russell Bruel
- 3rd Prize Rochelle Birnbaum
- 3rd Prize David Rosen
- Honorable Mention Brad Presner, Alison Robbins,
 The Goldberg family

4TH - 6TH GRADE

- 1st Prize Meridith Brown
- 2nd Prize..... Howard Glass
- 2nd Prize..... Rachel Feinstein
- 3rd Prize Debbie Quartin
- 3rd Prize Ali Hodin
- Honorable Mention .. Eric Gelman, Gary Frank, Mark & Marty
 Clein, Todd Presner

7TH - 10TH GRADE

- 1st Prize Eric Pozen
- 2nd Prize..... The Reisman family
- 3rd Prize Debra Tower
- 3rd Prize Joy Clein

Winter Term of Adult Education Begins Monday, January 11th

Israeli Dance Starts January 7th

A winter term with a large variety of Judaic and family oriented studies has been planned. There will be two segments consisting of five weeks each, in which a total of nine classes will be offered on a wide range of subjects. Please make note of the classes listed below and mark them on your calendar.

First Session

1. Five Mondays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 8, 1982:
 "Our Jewish Heritage: Basic Concepts in Jewish Thought"
 Lecturer: Prof. Robert Sandler
2. Five Tuesdays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Jan. 12-Feb. 9, 1982:
 "Jewish History: The Exodus and the Struggle for Nationhood"
 Lecturer: Prof. Donald Michelson
3. Five Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 13-Feb. 10, 1982:
 "More Hebrew" - Teacher: Mrs. Lenore Kipper
4. Every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Beginning Jan. 7, 1982:
 "Israeli Dance for Everyone" - Leader: Shira Baumgard

Second Session

1. Five Mondays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Feb. 22-Mar. 29, 1982:
 "Critical Issues in Jewish Life Today"
 Lecturer: Prof. Robert Sandler
2. Five Tuesdays, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Feb. 23-Mar. 23, 1982:
 "Jewish History, Part 3, Kings & Prophets"
 Lecturer: Prof. Donald Michelson
3. Five Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Feb. 24-Mar. 24, 1982:
 "More Hebrew, Continued" Teacher: Mrs. Lenore Kipper
4. Five Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Feb. 24-Mar. 24, 1982:
 "The Impact of Divorce on Family Life"
 Dr. Harry Graff, Co-ordinator.
5. Every Thursday, 7:30-9:30 p.m., continuing Feb. 18, 1982:
 "Israeli Dancing for Everyone" - Leader: Shira Baumgard

Mail to Temple Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami 33156

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please reserve a space for:

Our Jewish Heritage _____ Mondays

Jewish History _____ Tuesdays

More Hebrew _____ Wednesdays

Israeli Dance _____ Thursdays



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

The Death of a Leader

(The following is an excerpt from a High Holiday sermon. A full copy of the sermon is available in the Rabbi's office)

As one reads of this event in the Torah, one has to feel, "How terrible that Moses could not have participated in the fulfillment of his great dream. How sad that he should do all the heroic work and not taste the fruit of victory." Yet, if we look down the road of history we see that the experience of Moses in this respect was not unusual at all. The truth is that it is rare indeed for humans to see the fullest realization of that for which they labor. The meaning of life apparently does not lie in the experience of victory. It lies in facing each day's task with courage and doing what one can to find meaning and pleasure in that little task. Perhaps this story from the Talmud can be applied here. An old man was seen planting a tree. An observer noticed that the tree would take ten years to bear fruit. "Old man," said the observer, "Why are you wasting your time planting a tree, when you will never eat its fruit?" The old man answered, "I may not eat its fruit, but my children and grandchildren will." Sometimes what we do does not pay off in our own life span but with our effort we can help future generations, and our happiness can be in that knowledge. The truth is that we benefit from the labors of generations past, just as we help generations yet to be. What is civilization but a repository of past sacrifices and contributions? It is especially obvious in the scientific and medical fields that most of what we know today is due to the research and discoveries of those who labored and sacrificed in the past. Some people think of themselves as being isolated from the group and standing apart from the continuing effort of humankind. Judaism teaches that we are all part of the grand human effort that began with Adam and Eve and reaches to the Messianic Day. In the stretch of time there will be victories and losses for humankind, but if the goal is worthwhile, then the effort is rewarding, even in the face of short term frustration and denial.

As a Rabbi, I have had many occasions to discuss the meaning of life with a family as it mourned the loss of a loved one. Invariably, the family will start talking about happy events that took place in the life of the deceased in the past. Invariably, even in the midst of painful mourning, this discussion brings smiles and even laughter. Looking back on a life, we can frequently see that it was happier and more positive than we were able to imagine in the rush of things. So often, we look back on what was a tough time in its moment and we say, "Gee, those were the good old days." Time gives us a new perspective, and recalling the past somehow gives us the courage to face a current tragedy. Yes, the death of a loved one can be excruciatingly painful, but the present pain is not the whole of it. Memories of the past have their place in evaluating the meaning of the present.

I have learned another thing in the midst of death situations. The presence of a baby in the house always makes facing the death of an older person easier. How often have I seen a widow stop crying to pick up her grandchild from the floor and to cuddle it. The grandchild is evidence that life still has its duties, its pleasure, its purpose. The grandchild is evidence that the deceased grandparent still lives.

We do not stop living just because a loved one in the family dies, and a nation does not cease to function just because a beloved leader dies. As long as babies are born, death cannot be the ultimate answer.

NOTE: In last week's column "In the Image of God" the printer inadvertently changed one word, thus changing the whole meaning of my abbreviated sermon. The word "possible" was changed to "impossible." The correct key sentence is:

"Judaism teaches that it is possible both to stand in awe of God and to believe that we can imitate Him in his holiness."

What is Super Sunday, Jan. 17th?

Not a football game, but a massive Phone-A-Thon being sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal and Federations across the country, and locally by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. It is the largest nationwide communications network among Jews ever attempted in the United States.

The goal in Greater Miami is to reach over 60,000 Jewish households urging the families to give as much as they can to insure Jewish survival, and improve the quality of life for Jews who are sick, elderly, or in need of medical care.

Three thousand volunteers are needed to man the phones and perform the many non-calling tasks. Telephone sessions will begin at 10:00 A.M. and continue until 9:00 P.M. Each session will be for two hours and will be preceded by a 45 minute orientation and training session.

All this takes place on Sunday, January 17, 1982 at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 N.E 19 St. There is plenty of secure parking, plus busses will be running every other hour from the South Dade Jewish Community Center.

There'll be food, celebrities, an exposition center, and an opportunity to commit yourself as a Jew and encourage others to share the Mitzvoth of "Tzedukah" (caring for others).

No this is not a football game—it's Jewish survival. Get on the Beth Am team and sign up with Federation for the session or sessions you would like to work.

Mail the coupon below to Temple Beth Am, 5950 N. Kendall Drive, Miami 33156.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Office) _____

On Super Sunday I would like to be a:
 Phone Volunteer Non-Phone Volunteer

Please indicate the session (or sessions) you prefer —
 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
We'll be in touch with you shortly to confirm all details regarding your Super Sunday participation—meantime, thanks for volunteering. TBA

B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, January 9
9:15 a.m.



Teri, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Barnet Alpert



Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Marmorstein

11:15 a.m.



Brian David, son of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Glatzer



Matthew, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Rohan